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DISTRIBUTION II

ZCZCR122
D A3344)1Z0TBYLBYL
ZFAM-TROOPS'')'URGENTZ
FBY CHRISTOPHER HANSONZ
WASHINGTON, MARCH 2, REUTER -- A LEADING REPUBLICAN SENATOR WARNED THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TODAY HE WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING INTRODUCING A BILL CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOME AMERICAN TROOPS FROM WESTERN EUROPE.
TED STEVENS, CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE, TOLD A CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SUCH A MOVE MIGHT BE NEEDED BECAUSE OF WHAT HE SAID WAS GROWING WEST EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITH THE KREMLIN.
''I'M GETTING TIRED OF PAYING SO MUCH FOR DEFENSE WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD PAYS NO ATTENTION TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY,'' THE ALASKA SENATOR SAID.Z

ZCZCR127
R A3344)2Z0TBYLZSA
ZFAM-TROOPS 2 WASHINGTON (R-122...SENATOR SAID).Z
MR STEVENS SAID HE WAS NOT PROPOSING A U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN TROOPS FROM EUROPE, ONLY PULLING OUT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER.
DEFENSE SECRETARY CASPAR WEINBERGER TOLD THE HEARING THAT SUCH A PULLOUT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE BECAUSE IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH EUROPE.
BUT MR STEVENS REPLIED THAT U.S. VOTERS WERE GROWING VERY IMPATIENT WITH THE EUROPEANS AND SAID: ''IF I DON'T INTRODUCE THIS RESOLUTION, SOMEONE ELSE WILL.''Z

(OVER)

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ZFAM-TROOPS 3 WASHINGTONZ
A SIMILAR PROPOSAL WAS ADVANCED A DECADE AGO BY MIKE MANSFIELD, A MONTANA DEMOCRAT WHO WAS THEN SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, BUT WAS NOT ENACTED.
BUT GENERAL BERNARD ROGERS, SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IN EUROPE, TOLD A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE YESTERDAY THERE SEEMED TO BE STRONG SENTIMENT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR SUCH A MOVE.
MR WEINBERGER SAID TODAY HE HAD REPEATEDLY WARNED WEST EUROPEAN LEADERS THEIR FAILURE TO SPEND MORE ON DEFENSE AND THEIR PURSUIT OF A PROJECT TO BUILD A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO WESTERN EUROPE THREATENED TO BRING DORMANT U.S. ISOLATIONISM TO THE SURFACE AGAIN.
MR STEVENS EXPRESSED PARTICULAR IRRITATION THAT A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM ALASKA TO THE LOWER 48 U.S. STATES HAD BEEN DELAYED FOR YEARS WHILE PLANS WERE NOW GOING FORWARD SPEEDILY FOR THE SOVIET PIPELINE.
HE SAID SOME U.S. TROOPS BASED IN EUROPE COULD BE WITHDRAWN TO ''FRIENDLY ISLAND COMMUNITIES'' CLOSE ENOUGH TO EUROPE SO THEY COULD BE RUSHED BACK IN AN EMERGENCY.
HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH ISLANDS HE HAD IN MIND.Z

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ZFAM-TROOPS 4 WASHINGTONZ
MR STEVENS, WHO IS ALSO THE SENATE MAJORITY WHIP, SAID ONE ADVANTAGE OF RETURNING TROOPS TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE THAT IT WOULD KEEP MORE DOLLARS CIRCULATING IN THE U.S. ECONOMY.
HE ALSO TOLD REPORTERS HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD DEVELOPED A NEW NUCLEAR BOMBER, BUT HE REFUSED TO GIVE SPECIFICS.
HE SAID HE HAD BEEN SHOCKED BY THE CIA BRIEFING BECAUSE OF THE EXTENT OF THE SOVIET MENACE TO THE WEST.
THE SENATOR ADDED THAT THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SHOULD DECLASSIFY THIS INFORMATION SO THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE THREAT, MAKING IT EASIER FOR POLITICIANS TO JUSTIFY PRESIDENT REAGAN'S BIG MILITARY BUDGET.Z
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